

Eco-Community Dialogues Newsletter

Nancy Nelson, Editor

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The Conservation Pledge

I pledge to protect and preserve the natural resources of the planet Earth, and promise to promote education so we may become caretakers of our air, water, land, forest, and wildlife.

Federal Assault Against Organic Farms

In 2010 CONGRESS gave the FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION (FDA) authority to regulate farming practices. A year later, 33 people who ate tainted cantaloupes died of food poisoning. That was in 2011.

Suddenly now, in 2014, federal FDA inspectors are setting foot on organic farmland and harassing organic farmers with threats that permaculture is in peril. So is biodynamic farming in AMERICA. Your local and organic family farmers may go extinct.

For example, an FDA inspector set foot on *Jim Crawford's NEW MORNING FARM*, in *Hustontown, PENNSLYVANNIA*, to warn about new FDA proposals that may make organic farming practices illegal. But none of MORNING FARM's fennel, kohlrabi, peas, or other crops has ever sickened anyone.

Another example is *Judith Redmond's 350-acre FULL BELLY FARM* northwest of *Sacramento, CALIFORNIA*. These, and other, organic farms had nothing whatsoever to do with the tainted cantaloupes.

The FDA has made itself the adversary of the locally grown food movement. Is it not autocratic for the FDA to rule how long manure must be left in a compost pile, to outlaw made-at-home fertilizer, to make it against the law to till crops using grazing animals, and to ban irrigation from open creeks.

Small family farms do NOT have the facilities to do new one-size-fits-all food safety rules concocted because of transnational global capitalism. Full enforcement of the rules will mean closure of local and organic farming practices because added expenses will shut down small farms operating on the margins. Industrial agriculture is supplanting the locally grown food movement all across AMERICA and around the world.

According to COMMUNITY ALLIANCE OF FAMILY FARMERS' *Policy Director Dave Runsten*, in *Davis, CALIFORNIA*, the new FDA rules shall drive family farms out of business.

How sad to say good-bye to the sophisticated organic-grower networks that serve *Los Angeles* and *San Francisco* celebrity chefs, Farmers Markets, and food-conscious consumers who want freshly picked organic produce.

The bottom line is that when AMERICA's small organic farms have to close, who will supply U.S.D.A. certified produce for the America's organic consumers.

(February 23, 2014, THE OREGONIAN, "Organic growers fight the FDA" by Evan Halper, TRIBUNE WASHINGTON BUREAU, HUSTONTOWN, Pa)

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What Has Man Wrought

Physicist Omar Hurricane, of the LAWRENCE LIVERMORE NATIONAL LAB is lead author of a study published in the journal *Nature*, informing that last fall a US DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY's LAWRENCE LIVERMORE National Ignition Facility (NIF) laboratory in CALIFORNIA, triggered a fusion reaction, that replicated the power of the sun.

Man aimed 192 laser beams at a tiny gold can the size of a pea that had a fuel mixture of *Hydrogen* isotopes, *Enterium*, and *Tritium* inside. The nuclear material was self-heating, which is crucial for ignition. Researchers expect one billion atmospheres of pressure, or 300 gigabars, will yield ignition.

According to Director Steven Cowley, of the CULHAM CENTRE FOR FUSION ENERGY in the UNITED KINGDOM (UK), it suggests that ignition is possible. The CULHAM CENTRE uses the magnet-based approach that inspired 35 other countries and \$20 billion for the ITER fusion reactor being built in FRANCE, which will be operational by 2020.

(Source: February 13, 2014, THE WALL STREET JOURNAL, "A Star is Born: U.S. Scores Milestone in Fusion Power" by Gautam Naik)

Swarm Intelligence

Computer scientists and robotic researchers have developed bio-robots with swarm intelligence inspired by termites, so that large groups of flying drones and other robots can act independently, but collaborate together. Details of the project were published in *Science* magazine. The new scientific field is called "Swam Intelligence" and is led by Scientist Justin Werfel, at HARVARD UNIVERSITY's Wyss Institute for Biologically Inspired Engineering.

The robots were demonstrated at the yearly meet-up of the AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE in Chicago, ILLINOIS.

Each of the bio-robots comes equipped with an accelerometer, an infrared sensor, and an ultrasound sensor. Their programming uses rules based on the behavior of termite colonies. Swarms of millions of termite insects act autonomously, by taking cues from one another and from surroundings.

They come with rubric programming to sense other drones or robots nearby and they respond to one another. They are smarter as a group than they are individually. When they see something needs to be done, they just do it without human-style intelligence or a central plan. They can do complicated projects, and they are programmed with enough feedback to recognize and correct their errors.

They respond to changes in conditions around them, by moving forward, backward, up, down, or by turning. And they can build what they need, such as 42-foot high mounds, or staircases to reach higher levels of structures. The bio-robots can build castles, pyramids, towers, and complicated structures without blueprints or outside intervention. They can walk around carrying, depositing, or picking up bricks and they can sense when bricks are being carried.

A person may not know if large groups of bio-robotic drones collaborating on projects will raise human consciousness.

(Source: February 14, 2014, THE WALL STREET JOURNAL, "Termites Teach Robots a Thing or Two" by Robert Lee Hotz; and WSJ.com/US)

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The Latest on Climate Change

THE U.S. NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES and the ROYAL SOCIETY of the UK, have just released a joint report on. Study author, *Ben Santer*, with the LAWRENCE LIVERMORE NATIONAL LAB concludes that the oceans are already getting more acidic, sea levels are already rising, glaciers are already melting, extreme weather patterns are already increasing. These are connected to heat-trapping gases. It's already time to take measures.

(Sources: February 27, 2014, MAIL TRIBUNE, "*Top academies' report warns of climate change effects*" WASHINGTON)

North Carolina, Virginia, and Wyoming

A federal grand jury has subpoenaed documents from *Duke Energy Corporation* and state NORTH CAROLINA's *Department of Environment and Natural Resources* regulator, as part of a criminal investigation into the 82,000 tons of wet coal ash slurry that spilled into the *Dan River*. Coal ash is a byproduct of burning coal and the spill moved downstream along the VIRGINIA border.

Environmentalists are glad about the federal inquiry and Governor *Pat McCrory's* insistence that the corporation make amends. The cleanup will involve dredging.

In AMERICA, the federal ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY (EPA) regulates greenhouse gases. You probably already know that burning coal generates electricity and large amounts of carbon dioxide. Did you know that 40 percent of our nation's coal is from WYOMING, the state with the worst CO2 emissions per person.

(Sources: February 28, 2014 MAIL TRIBUNE, "*Wyoming worst state for CO2 emissions per capita*" CHEYENNE, Wyoming; February 14, 2014, "*Duke Energy Coal-Ash Spill Prompts U.S. Probe*" by Valerie Bauerlein, RALEIGH, N.C.)

OREGON's Neglected Curry County

Curry County's 17 tsunami sirens cost \$2,000 a month to remain functional. The sirens situated far off the coast must be maintained in order to initiate on-shore tsunami sirens automatically. The offshore siren models are from the 1960's and they NEED repair or replacement parts. The siren at the *Port of Brookings Harbor* has been awaiting parts for well over a year. The part cost \$8,000 and doesn't include paying electricians and technicians to set the new apparatus up. *Emergency Preparedness Director Don Kendall*, of *Curry County*, needs to repair them, and he pleads that CURRY COUNTY's budget can't afford the cost.

It is callous for elected officials at the state and federal level to take the attitude that it '*Serves people right*' for living in the sea level communities of *Brookings Harbor* and *Brookings*. It's not just about tsunami siren upkeep, it's about human lives being worth loving.

Actually CURRY COUNTY seems to have been orphaned by the state of OREGON and that is reprehensible.

Maybe you haven't yet realized that the few miles of *Highway 101* on the SOUTHERN OREGON coast between *Crescent City*, CALIFORNIA, and *Brookings*, OREGON, could easily be reclaimed by the federal *Wilderness Protection Act*.

You might not have noticed this is a case where an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure because it would be more cost effective to evacuate that area ahead of the CASCADIA FAULT rupture, by offering a fair price, and helping the inhabitants resettle inland. It's time to think smarter, NOT harder, about doing whatever it takes to save the lives of those at highest risk in OREGON. The great quake of 2011 in JAPAN was a clarion call.

(Source: February 19, 2014, MAIL TRIBUNE, "*Are tsunami sirens worth the upkeep?*" by Jane Stebbins, CURRY COUNTY PILOT)

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Scientist Hulda Clark

According to *Scientist Hulda Clark*, author of several books, including *THE CURE TO ALL DISEASES*, all living things broadcast frequencies. I wouldn't tell you to read her several books about health and immunity, because you probably already know that the human body broadcasts electrically, just like a radio station, over a wide band of frequencies and very low voltages.

AM radio broadcasts are from 540,000 Hz to 1,600,000 Hz which overlaps with the lower end of the human band. FM is 88,000,000 to 108,000,000 Hz and is out of the human range.

Dr. Clark discovered the human range is from 1520 KHz to 9460 KHz, and she posited that the best way to rid pathogens from the human body was to generate positive offset frequencies. She discovered that bacteria, fungi, mites, molds, parasites, viruses, and worms had a range from 77 KHz to 900 KHz, and she shared how to zap them for seven minutes with 5 to 10 voltage volts of frequency from 10 Hz to 500,000 Hz.

She taught removal of toxic chemicals, metals, and molds in food and personal care products. And she expounded the benefits of herbal kidney and liver cleanses. These, she believed were within one's personal abilities to do. But for any repairs beyond, to seek help from health and medical professionals.

The Ides of March

Soon it will be time to Spring forward. Potted *Lavender* is great for freshening up a small, stuffy space. *Eucalyptus* gives off a subtly sweet scent. The exotic beauty of *Orchid* is a home brightener. *Peace Lily* may remove formaldehyde air pollutant. *Aloe*, *Areca Palm*, or dwarf *Date Palm* may remove volatile compounds near computers, or from new carpets or upholstered furniture. Other natural air filters are *Boston Fern*, *Chrysanthemum*, *English Ivy*, *Gerbera Daisy*, or *Spider Plant*.

(Source: February 2014, REMEDIES, "Cabin Fever retool your indoors" by Karen Lovett)

Pop Quiz

What is the oldest still-occupied building in your town?

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